

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A paper feeding apparatus, comprising:  
  
holding means for holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media;  
  
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the recording media held by the holding means;  
  
movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction; and  
  
guide means for guiding a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and having predetermined regions and a remaining region, such that the recording medium make contact only with the ~~by a~~ remaining region and not with the ~~except~~ predetermined regions.
2. (original) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein notches are provided in the predetermined regions.
3. (original) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein recesses are provided in the predetermined regions.
4. (original) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined regions include regions which correspond to the corner parts of the recording medium to-be-guided.

5. (currently amended) A paper feeding apparatus, comprising:  
holding means for stacking and holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media;  
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the stacked recording media by separation pawls;  
movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction; and  
guide means being a plate-like member and formed with a space for resuming original states of deformed parts of the recording medium having been deformed during the separation by the separation means, for guiding the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path.

6. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a paper feeding apparatus including:  
holding means for holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media,  
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the recording media held by the holding means,  
movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction, and  
guide means for guiding the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and having predetermined regions and a remaining region, such that the recording medium make

contact only with the~~by a~~ remaining region and not with the ~~except~~ predetermined regions; and

an image forming apparatus body for forming an image on the recording medium fed from the paper feeding apparatus.

7. (original) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein notches are provided in the predetermined regions.

8. (original) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein recesses are provided in the predetermined regions.

9. (original) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the predetermined regions include regions which correspond to the corner parts of the recording medium to-be-guided.

10. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a paper feeding apparatus including:  
holding means for stacking and holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media,  
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the stacked recording media by separation pawls,

movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction, and

guide means being a plate-like member and formed with a space for resuming original states of deformed parts of the recording medium having been deformed

during the separation by the separation means, for guiding the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path; and

an image forming apparatus body for forming an image on the recording medium fed from the paper feeding apparatus.